

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). Central assistance for slum clearance, according to a decision taken in December, 1958, is to be confined mainly to the six cities. Commitments already entered into in respect of cities other than the six, will, however, be honoured and, where there is special justification, certain additional schemes can be sanctioned.

The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bombay, Mysore, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have made formal representations against this decision.

(c) The Fourth Housing Ministers' Conference, held from 5th to 7th November, 1959, has recommended that the Slum Clearance/Improvement Scheme and the enhanced subsidy be extended to cover any town or city at the discretion of the State Governments. These recommendations of the Conference are under the consideration of the Union Government.

Manganese Industry

*383. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that as a result of the crisis facing the manganese industry, some 22 big mine-owners in Madhya Pradesh and Bombay States have decided to revoke with effect from the 30th November, 1959, their agreement relating to payment of wages, bonus and other benefits to their employees, reached in November, 1957:

(b) if so, whether Government have gone into the circumstances leading to such decisions on the part of the mine owners; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Efforts are being made through Industrial Relations Machinery to bring about an amicable settlement of the points in dispute.

Land Acquisition and Development Scheme

*384. { Shri Halder:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced a new Land Acquisition and Development Scheme to tackle the Housing problem; and

(b) if so, whether any amendments to the existing legislation relating to acquisition of land will be necessary?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes; copies of the Scheme are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) The Scheme is to be implemented by the State Governments in accordance with the Law in force from time to time in regard to the acquisition of land.

Work Study of Indian High Commission, U.K.

*385. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 273 on the 6th August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the report of the "Work Study" of the entire office of the Indian High Commissioner in the U.K., with a view to effecting economy and efficiency, has been received from the High Commission after final verification; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) As the report is a somewhat bulky document, a copy has been placed in the library of the House. A summary of the recommendations as well as the effective implementation up-to-date is, however, placed on the Table of the House for the information of the Honourable Members. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 3.]

Export of Engineering Goods to Burma

*386. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri R. C. Majhi:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a steep decline in the export of engineering goods to Burma during the year 1958-59;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether it has shown any prospect of increase at present; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons are, apparently, Burma's foreign exchange difficulties, her barter agreements with certain countries and her Reparation Agreement with Japan under which she is importing engineering goods.

(c) and (d). A statement showing the corrective measures taken is given below. As a result the situation is expected to improve.

STATEMENT

The following specific steps have been taken to promote exports of engineering goods to Burma.

(a) The Engineering Export Promotion Council have set up an Office at Rangoon which keeps contacts with Burmese importers and Chambers of Commerce etc. and is also maintaining a show room to display engineering goods.

(b) A protocol to the 1956 Trade Agreement between India and Burma was concluded on the 25th September, 1958 to promote trade between the two countries and to effect a better balance in the trade. Some of the engineering goods mentioned in the Protocol are sewing machines and parts, electric goods, bicycles and parts, hardware, telephone and telegraph equipment, railway wagons, motor vehicles and agricultural machinery and implements.

Small Scale Industries

*387. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total purchases made by D.G.S. & D. in the country during each of the last three years and what part of these have been purchased from small scale industries;

(b) what is the advantage of price preference actually given to the small industries; and

(c) the steps being taken to encourage purchases from small scale industries?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 4.]

Hindu and Sikh Shrines

*388. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadl:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 485 on the 14th August, 1959 and state the further progress